



# COLOSSIANS 1:1-14

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FROM 9/12/21

### SERMON SUMMARY

This week we begin our new series in the book of Colossians. The theme of Paul's letter to the Christians at Colossae is "The absolute supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ." Perhaps no book in Scripture presents a more comprehensive picture of the fullness of Christ or challenges us more to keep Him first in our lives. Paul opens his letter with an expression of his own gratitude for the faith and commitment of the saints of the Colossian church. He expresses his desire to see these young believers grow deeper in their faith and to see their lives changed even more as they grown in their understanding of the gospel and their relationship with Jesus. His prayer is that they would experience growth in every part of their lives, from what they know, to what they feel, to what they do—that in all things, their lives would reflect the work of God that has taken place in their hearts because of Jesus Christ.

**Key Passage:** Colossians 1:1-14

*Be sure to read this Scripture passage together before you proceed to the "Grow" section of our study.*

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

**KNOW—Spend some time finding out how everyone's week has gone.** *The questions in this section provide a guide for connectivity; feel free to approach this part of your group time organically over a meal or "connection" activity or with questions appropriate to your context.*

*What is one way God is challenging you to trust Him this week?*

*What are some ways you have experienced God answering your prayers lately?*

*Who in your life is in need of prayer, physical help, or emotional encouragement right now?*

**GROW—Grow in the Lord as you engage His Word together.**

*Why do you think Paul emphasizes his apostolic credentials to this church as he begins his letter?*

*What is it that Paul and his companions are so thankful for regarding the Colossian Christians (vs. 4-5)?*

*What is this "hope laid up" in heaven, and why does or should it result in unity and love for one another for those who have faith in Christ?*

*In verses 5-6, Paul references the gospel "bearing fruit and increasing" in the whole world. He also mentions it is also increasing "among you," since the day you heard it. What does Paul mean by this? What is the ongoing significance of the gospel for Christians?*

*What seems to have been the role of Epaphras in the Colossians coming to faith?*

*From your reading of vs. 9-14, what is Paul's primary desire for the Colossian Christians? What are the different aspects of spiritual growth he prays for?*

*What does Paul mean by "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord" (vs. 10)? Are you living in a manner worthy of the Lord?*

*How is it that God has "qualified believers" to share in the inheritance of the saints? Do verses 12-14 tell us? How is this encouraging when we fail to "walk worthy?"*

**GO—Talk through ways you can put what you've learned into practice.**

*Do you experience this kind of joy and gratitude to hear about new Christians accepting Jesus?*

*In what ways is Paul's opening of his letter an example for how we should approach discipleship? From how we pray to how we develop disciples, what is essential for growth?*





# COLOSSIANS SERIES PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL PLAN

## WEEK 1

*Each week through this series, we are including five personal devotional readings followed by a couple of questions you can think on through the day. Monday is a day to set aside to read through the book of Colossians. The rest of the week we will look at two or three verses to contemplate more deeply and personally. We hope you enjoy digging into this important book over the next 10 weeks, and we pray God will use these short devotional questions to give you deeper insight and that through it, the gospel will be “bearing fruit and increasing” in you daily (Colossians 1:6).*

**Monday Reading:** Read through Colossians in one sitting.

*Devotional Questions—After your first reading through Colossians what is one thing that stands out as important for Paul’s readers to understand? Take that thought with you today.*

*In Paul’s mind, who is the hero of the story?*

**Tuesday Devotional:** Read Colossians 1:1-2

*Devotional Questions—Who called and sent Paul to reach and serve these saints?*

*How does that, then, give authority to what he says here and why should that matter to you?*

**Wednesday Devotional:** Read Colossians 1:3-5a

*Devotional Questions—Who is one person in your life who’s faith in Christ brings you joy and gratitude?*

*How does the promise of heavenly hope draw you together with other Christians?*

**Thursday Devotional:** Read Colossians 1:5b-6

*Devotional Questions—Can you remember the time when you first believed the gospel? How did you feel?*

*How is the gospel bearing fruit and increasing in you now?*

**Friday Devotional:** Read Colossians 1:7-8

*Devotional Questions—Who shared the gospel with you for the first time? How grateful are you for their faithfulness?*

*Who is someone in your life that you care about who needs to hear the gospel from you?*

